

Remarks

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. published patent application no. 2002/0181492 ("Kasami"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest every element of any pending claim, as the following analysis shows.

Independent claims 1, 12, and 18 each recite adjusting the start times of transmissions from a single device to multiple devices, so that the transmissions will end at approximately the same time. Kasami teaches timing the transmissions from multiple devices to a single device so that they will all end at the same time, which is the exact opposite of applicants' technique (see Kasami's Fig. 23). Although Kasami's and applicants' approaches have some general concepts in common, they are significantly different in operation. Applicants' technique may be performed entirely within the access point, with no cooperation from the mobile stations being required. By contrast, Kasami's approach requires a complicated exchange of messages between the access point and the mobile stations before the timing synchronization may be achieved.

The remaining pending claims each depends, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 12, and 18, and therefore contains the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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